

# Bharathanatyam Arangetram

**Sivaatmika V. Subramony**

Disciple of

**Guru. Smt. Akhilandeshwari**

Kalagangothri Foundation, Edison, New Jersey, USA



In the presence of

**Kavimamani Shri. Ilanthai S Ramasami**

on July 23, 2022 at 3.00 pm

Sri Venkateswara Temple, Bridgewater, NJ 08807





**Bharathanatyam** is one of the ancient classical dance forms of India. This art form is rich in culture and embodies bhakthi (devotion) at its best. The dance form has evolved through ages holding on to the roots of Hindu philosophies and Indian culture. In Bharathanatyam, Natyam represents dance and Bha-ra-tha represents bhava (expression), raaga (music) & thala (rhythm). Lord Shiva is considered God of this dance form. Bharathanatyam encompasses three main aspects: nritta (technical dance), Natya (expressive dance or abhinaya) & Nritya (combination of footwork & abhinaya).

**Arangetram** is a Tamil word which literally means, "to ascend the stage". After years of learning and devotion to the art, the dancer formally performs the margam in front of an esteemed audience. This is considered as an offering to the feet of the Lord and her Guru before commencing her artistic journey.

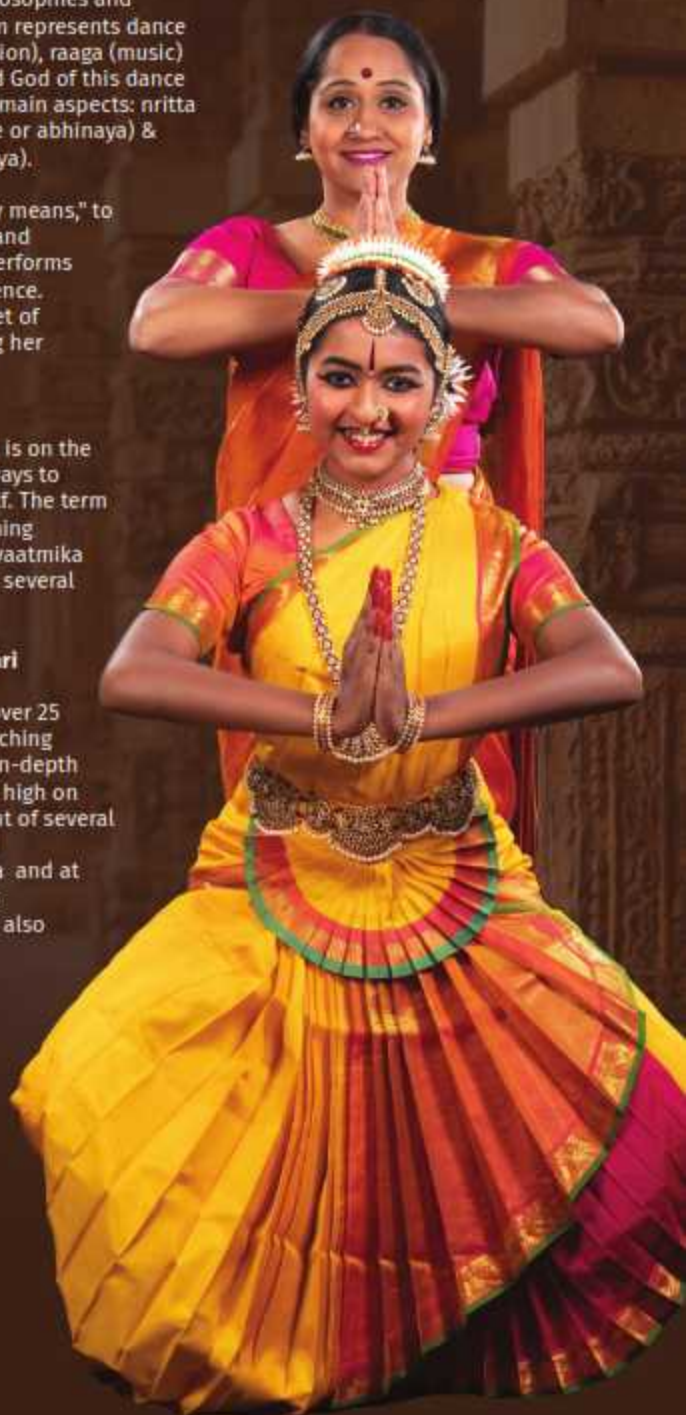
#### **A journey of the eternal self**

The margam, as depicted in this brochure, is on the concept of 'Navavidha bhakthi', the nine ways to express devotion for God or the higher self. The term comes from the Sanskrit, navavidha, meaning "nine-fold" and bhakthi, "devotion to". Sivaatmika expresses Bhakti in several forms through several stories.

#### **Guru Kalaikomamani. Smt. Akhilandeshwari**

Smt. Akhilandeshwari is an accomplished professional Bharathanatyam artist with over 25 years of experience in performing and teaching this sacred art. She is well known for her in-depth abhinaya, breathtaking neat postures and high on rhythmic technicalities. She is the recipient of several awards and recognitions. She established Kalagangothri Foundation at Mysuru, India and at Edison, NJ in the year 2005, since then has trained numerous students in the art. She also teaches Indian classical music and yoga.

Smt. Akhilandeshwari is an ardent believer of dasa parampara, and follows the philosophy of Sangeetha Pithamaha Sri Purandara Daasa - 'Kereya neeranu kerege chelli' which has a profound meaning 'the learned ones scoop water from the lake and pour it back in a ritual when they offer their prayers to the Lord'. Similarly our life given to us with compassion by Hari is surrendered back to him.





## Shishya **Sivaatmika V. Subramony**

Sivaatmika V. Subramony is now an incoming Sophomore at JFK Memorial High school, Iselin, New Jersey.

Sivaatmika began Bharathanatyam training from the age of four and a half under the tutelage of Smt. Akhilandeshwari at Kalagangothri Foundation. She has participated in numerous Bharathanatyam programs and competitions in the USA and in India including the Cleveland aradhanal and Margazhi utsavam at Brahma Gana Sabha, Chennai. She has successfully completed the Senior Diploma Dance exam conducted by Kalagangothri Foundation in affiliation with Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Bangalore. She has also completed the induction into the Junior Chapter of National Honor Society for Dance Arts.

Sivaatmika learns western music and is a member of several choir groups and was inducted this year into the "Concert Choir" which has the distinction of being the highest ranked choir group in the school. In the past year, she was accepted into the Regions and All State choir. Sivaatmika loves to perform in various recitals and competitions throughout the year. Sivaatmika has been learning Indian Carnatic music for the past 10 years from Shri. Prashanth Sridhar. She is part of the Thiruppigazh anbagal group and has been an active learner and participant. She is also a self learner of Nachiyar's Thiruppavai.

She is a multi instrumentalist, a self keyboard learner and a vivid learner of classical violin. Sivaatmika is a natural painter and has done paintings in various media. She has won several prizes for art and is particularly proud that one of her drawings was recognized by the Office of the Mayor, Woodbridge Township, NJ. She was selected for the Middlesex county arts program in 2018. Her exhibit was chosen as one of the rotating art exhibits.

Sivaatmika is part of the cross country team for JFK Memorial High School, Iselin, NJ and participated in various meets. She has completed Madhayama in Hindi from Dakshin Bharathi, India. She is also learning Tamil from her father who is avid and passionate in Tamil literature.





#### **Pushpanjali** in Archanam Bhakthi

Archanam or deity worship combines an external ritual with internal meditation. Archana can be done by offering flowers, fruits, leaves, food, or even water to the lord.

**Raga** - Ranjani, **Thala** - Chathurashra Ata,  
**Music Composer** - Sri. Madurai R. Muralidharan

Pushpanjali is an Invocatory item in Bharathanatyam recital. In this, Sivaatmika seeks blessings from God, her Gurus, the music ensemble, and the respected audience for a successful performance.



#### **Guru Vandhanam** in Padha Sevanam Bhakthi

Padasevanam is the worship of the lord by concentrating upon his feet.

**Raga** - Hindola, **Thala** - Adhi, **Source** - Kanchi Periyava Forum

Guru Vandhanam is a sloka from Kanchi Periyava Forum and is in praise of Kanchi Mahaperiyava, His holiness Shri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamikal. Sivaatmika seeks blessings from the Guru Mahaperiyava, who is revered as a guiding light for all of us. In this piece, Sivaatmika showcases how Periyava nurtures everyone as a mother, to whose feet I surrender to grace and protect me every day.



#### **Alarippu**

**Thala** - Roopakam,  
**Composer** - Shri. V R Chandrashekar

Alarippu literally means 'blossoming of flower'. It is a pure Nritta item based on Thala alone. Alarippu begins with subtle eye movement followed by head, hand and eventually full body movements. It is performed in slow, medium and fast tempos. This Alarippu is unique as it is set to Roopaka Tala of six counts and the movements are set in all the pancha nadais.



#### **Jathiswaram**

**Raga** - Hamsanadam, **Thala** - Rupakam  
**Composer** - Shri. K N Pakkiriswami Pillai

Jathiswaram is an ornamental dance of Nritta, or pure rhythmic segments. It is a beautiful synthesis of jathis or footwork set to swaras or musical elements in a specific rhythmic pattern. The beauty of pure dance is characterized by linear angularity which sketches out geometrical patterns. The dancer weaves the rhythms with the architecture of the adavus (dance steps). Each phrase culminates in teermanam.



**Shabdham** - Thillai Ambalam in Shraavanam Bhakthi  
Shraavanam Bhakthi - means hearing about Leelas or the greatness of God with great interest.

**Raga** - Ragamalika, **Thala** - Mishra Capu

**Composer**: Shri Tanjavur Arunachalam Pillai

Shabdham is a piece in which a deity is praised for his benevolent qualities. Shabdham interweaves abhinaya (expressions) with small amounts of nritta (body movements). This shabdham is on Lord Shiva, depicts a female devotee, who is amazed and enamored by the dance of Lord Shiva. She expresses the dreams and myriad feelings in hope of uniting with him.

**Varnam**: Ambike Akhilandeswari in Atma Nivedanam Bhakthi  
Atma Nivedanam Bhakthi - offering everything to God including your body, mind, and soul.

**Raga** - Hamsanandhi, **Thala** - Adhi Thala

**Composer**: Shri. Madurai R. Muralidharan



In Varnam, there is a perfect synchronization of bhava (emotions), raaga (melody), and thala (rhythm), thus giving the dancer abundant scope for displaying her rhythmic talents along with rich and prismatic abhinaya. This varnam is in praise of mother Akhilandeswari of Thiruvanaikavil. Akilandeswari means 'Akilam - Aanda - Eswari' (Akilam - Universe, Aanda - Ruler, Eswari - Goddess). She is the ruler of all the Worlds, who destroys our sins and showers us with her compassion. Through this varnam, we seek her protection, blessings for a clear and steady mind, for prosperity and for the betterness of the entire world.

**Padham** - Andru orunaal in Dasyam Bhakthi  
Dasyam Bhakthi - you consider Lord as your Swami, father, mother, and everything to you.

**Raga** - Bihag, **Thala** - Mishra chapu

**Composer** - Shri. Ilanthai S Ramasami



A padam is a purely expressional poetic piece. It is usually a slow poetic composition to convey emotions and stories. Padams focuses on emotional monologue or dialogue and is centered around the concept of a naayika (heroine) expressing her love and longing for her naayaka (hero). This padam is taken from the monologue by Sita to Trijata, recollecting her moments with Rama.

**Devarnama** - Hari Smarane mado in Sakhyam Bhakthi  
Sakhyam Bhakthi - this bhakthi portrays the Lord as your friend.

**Raga** - Yamunaa Kalyaani, **Thala** - caapu

**Composer** - Purandara Daasa



This is a very impressionable Bhakthi-aphorism song. Purandhara Dasa starts off the song with the meaning "meditate on Hari's name that is the only sole support of attainment". He envisions how Krishna saves Draupadi from her burden, the moment He hears her cries for help. It is classical poetry in simple words with intense Bhakthi.





**Kruthi** - Thanigai Malai Vazhum in Keerthanam Bhakthi  
Keerthanam Bhakthi - by singing or dancing His praises.  
**Raga** - Ragamalika, **Thala**- Adhi  
**Composer** - Isaimamani Smt. Rajalakshmi

This beautiful composition is on Lord Muruga who is residing at Thiruthani. He is the six faced handsome God, who rides the beautiful peacock. He is the one who grants wishes for all his devotees. The abhinaya in the song are intervined with jathis and swaras during which the dancer executes different korvais (set of adavus).



**Thillana** - Guruvayoorappan in Smaranam Bhakthi  
Smaranam Bhakthi - is a constant remembrance of the Lord.  
**Raga** - Rathipathipriya, **Thala**- Adhi  
**Composer** - T.V. Gopalakrishnan

Thillana is a culmination piece of margam. It is a dance of exuberant joy and intricate steps involving various adavus set to cadence music in which the dancer abandons herself purely to the joys of rhythm and movement. In this, Sivaatmika describes Krishna in the form of Guruvayoorappan, and surrenders herself completely to him. She remembers him every moment even in her dream and beseeches for his blessings.



**Mangalam** in Vandhanam Bhakthi  
Vandhanam Bhakthi - is a form of Bhakti to express your gratitude to God, Guru, and the audience.

Mangalam means auspiciousness and success. The dancer concludes the margam with a prayer expressing her gratitude, to get continued blessing from the God, Guru, & Rasikas.

## ORCHESTRA



Nattuvangam : **Guru. Smt. Akhilandeswari & Shri. Chetan Hebbar**  
Vocal : **Ms. Mayuri Vasan**  
Mrudangam : **Shri. Jaisankar Menon**  
Violin : **Shri. Anand Nada Yogi**  
Flute : **Shri. B. Gokulakrishnan**

## CREDITS

Master of Ceremony : **Shri. Aswathaman Rangharajan & Smt. Anavadhyangi Sridhar**  
Makeup : **Smt. Hema Devanathan**  
Photo/ Video : **Mr. Justin Kallarackal**  
Costumes : **Shri. Krishna (Aharya Tailors, Chennai)**



Zelle

I am interested in promoting arts by supporting rural communities within India to prosper. I am proud to hold hands who are willing to take this art form and promote our arts and culture to prosper. I am joining hands with Sri Ranga Academy of Fine Arts, to support their academy.

I also joining with Nammaperiyava kovil, Sri Mahaperiya Manimandapam, @ Flemington, NJ to continue ancient Hindu traditions and promote the value of those in our daily life and passing it to the generations to come.



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